

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, said tool comprising:

a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, said plurality of modules comprising:

a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto;

an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto; and

an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto; and

an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to obstacles existing in the development of the opportunity, changes or additions to the opportunity suggested by an inventor and other views of the inventor, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto,

each of said value drivers associated with each of said market module, cost module, efficiency module, impact module and invention module having a plurality of user-specified variables, each of said plurality of user-specified variables having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto ~~linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers; a pre-determined weighting factor linked to each of said modules~~ having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto; and

a processor operative to calculate an opportunity value for each entered opportunity and a score for each of said modules by a pre-determined function using the user-specified variables, to store the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity and the score for each of said modules in a data storage device, and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values.

20. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to ownership of the entered opportunity and available resources to be applied to development of the entered opportunity.

21. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to development cost, development time, implementation cost, and implementation time of the entered opportunity.

22. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the efficiency module includes value drivers relating to the efficiency of employee job, job knowledge, job tasks, and employee-customer relations for the entered opportunity.

23. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 19, ~~including an~~ wherein said invention module further includes ~~having~~ a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

24. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein a form is published on an accessible information network, displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers, and is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

25. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 24, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

Claims 26-38 (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, the plurality of modules comprising:

a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto and each of said value drivers having a having a plurality of user specified values with each of said plurality of user-specified values having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto and each of said value drivers having a having a plurality of user specified values with each of said plurality of user-specified values having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto;

an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto and each of said value drivers having a having a plurality of user specified values with each of said plurality of user-specified values having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto; and

an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and

licensee customers, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto and each of said value drivers having a having a plurality of user specified values with each of said plurality of user-specified values having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto; and
an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to obstacles existing in the development of the opportunity, changes or additions to the opportunity suggested by an inventor and other views of the inventor, each of said value drivers having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto and each of said value drivers having a having a plurality of user specified values with each of said plurality of user-specified values having a predetermined weighting factor assigned thereto;

applying pre-determined weighting factors to each of the plurality of value drivers;

providing a published form on an accessible information network that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers, including at least one of said plurality of user-specified variables associated with said at least one of the plurality of value drivers;

~~providing a plurality of user-specified variables, linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers;~~

calculating a total score and module scores for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using the user-specified variables;

storing the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity;
notifying a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total
and module scores; and
prioritizing the calculated opportunity values.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 39, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 39, wherein the published form is a web enabled, multi-layer form that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers and is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 41, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.